

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1871.

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| SUNDAY, | Feb. 19.— <i>Quinquagesima Sunday.</i> Bread riots in Liverpool, 1855. Sir Wm. Napier died, 1860. |
| MONDAY, | " 20.—Voltaire born, 1694. Tythes abolished in Upper Canada, 1823. Joseph Hume died, 1855. Princess Louise of Wales born, 1867. |
| TUESDAY, | " 21.— <i>Shrove Tuesday.</i> Rev. Robert Hall died, 1831. |
| WEDNESDAY, | " 22.— <i>Ash Wednesday.</i> Washington born, 1731. Sydney Smith died, 1847. |
| THURSDAY, | " 23.—Sir Joshua Reynolds died, 1793. Louis Philippe abdicated, 1848. Source of the Nile discovered, 1863. |
| FRIDAY, | " 24.— <i>St. Matthias, Ap. & M.</i> Handel born, 1684. |
| SATURDAY, | " 25.—Sir Christopher Wren died, 1723. Earl Derby resigned the Premiership, 1868. |

THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1871.

SURELY those of the morning journals which attribute to Col. Wolseley the authorship of "The Narrative of the Red River Expedition," published in *Blackwood's Magazine*, do that gallant officer rank injustice. Col. Wolseley could scarcely have been guilty of such a venomous and unfair attack upon the people of Canada as that which the first part of the so-called "Narrative" contains. Though the article is credited to "an officer of the expeditionary force," it does not follow that the Commander-in-chief of that force would stain his well-won laurels by the publication of a paper so full of mis-statements, so little creditable to the political knowledge of its author, and so well calculated to stir up feelings of resentment against him. In fact, it is rare, if ever before, that *Blackwood's* has soiled its pages with such an unworthy production, whose tendency can only be to weaken those ties between the Empire and its Colonial possessions, that every loyal and patriotic man desires to see strengthened. We feel disposed, therefore, to credit the authorship of the "Narrative" to some "haw-haw" young cockney whose ignorance furnishes, to wiser and more experienced heads, an excuse for his impertinence.

But the "Narrative" remains, apart from the question of authorship, and to its merits or demerits—considering the honourable place it has secured in the serial literature of the day—we desire to direct attention. In the first place, the writer was apparently utterly ignorant of the recorded explorations of Sir Alexander McKenzie, and of many who succeeded him, Englishmen and others of repute, that were not by any means "officers on leave," as the "Narrative" man asserts, yet who fully described the vastness and partial fertility of Rupert's Land and the North-West Territories. Secondly, he mistakes the Canadian exploring party sent out some twelve or fourteen years ago to "prospect" a route through British territory to the Pacific Ocean, for an exploring expedition to report "fully upon the resources of the North-West Territory," and thirdly, he makes no mention of the valuable, accurate, and very full information gathered by a Committee of the British House of Commons as to the character, climate, and capacity of the region of which he speaks so glibly. These initiatory marks of historical ignorance ought to damage the credibility of the whole "Narrative," but the writer diverges even further from the truth when he comes to speak of events not yet a twelve-month old. The reflections on the Hudson's Bay Company and the peculiar manner in which the race of "half breeds" came to infest the country may be passed over; they show at least the creative power of the writer who, when he wants a fact, can make one. Another curious phase of the article needs only to be mentioned: the "French Canadian priests and Jesuit Missionaries from France," we are told, "built up a considerable following amongst the families of a mixed origin." This point, we think, really needs elucidation. Will the "officer" tell us what peculiar circumstance favours priestly influence in "families of a mixed origin?" We never heard, except from this "officer," that crossing the breed was a favourable means for propagating Popery. The historical fact is, as all intelligent and unprejudiced people know, that the Catholic Priest in the North-West, as in other parts of the world, went with his people; that where their business took them his duty compelled him to follow. And in this devotion to their flocks, though the Catholic Priests have earned distinction they have by no means a monopoly of honour. The Episcopalian, the Presbyterian, and the Methodist Missionary have penetrated to the utmost wilds of that vast region, and to one of the latter (Rev. Mr. Hurlburt) we are indebted for far more information about the North-

West than the "Officer of the Expeditionary force" ever possessed in his life—unless he has made shameful concealment of his knowledge.

The "officer's" amusing statement that in "about equal numbers" the "smaller half" ruled the whole country, is eminently suggestive of Sir Boyle Roche, and the palmiest days of Irish bulls. He gravely explains that this "smaller half" by "acting and voting as a unit," "under the direction of a wily Bishop, backed up by a well disciplined staff of obedient priests, maintained an unquestioned supremacy." Yet further on he declares that "the previous political history of the country was 'curious, from the fact of there never having been any active Government whatever.'" Now, to what purpose could the Catholics have "voted" when there was no legislature to elect? No Ministry or Government to control? The statement is absurd, but it shows the crass ignorance of the writer, as it exposes his daring presumption upon the want of acumen, or even ordinary intelligence, on the part of his readers. Two conditions are given that his conclusion may be reached, yet one of them is absolutely nugatory of the other, and both necessary to produce the desired impression! This alone shows the worthlessness of the political portion of the "Narrative," as well as from what a height "Blackwood" has fallen, for not in the palmy days of its well earned popularity would such self-contradiction have been allowed to sully its high fame.

As a specimen of the supercilious style of our "officer" critic, we quote the following:—"A Mr. William McDougall 'had been selected by the Dominion Ministry to be Lieutenant-Governor of the newly-acquired province. 'It was a most injudicious appointment, as every one 'who knew that gentleman was perfectly aware at the 'time.' This from an Imperial military officer is a piece of cool impertinence indeed. 'A Mr. William McDougall' was a well known Minister of the Crown in Canada; he had been frequently in England for the adjustment of Colonial and Imperial questions; he had sat in the London Conference at which was framed the British North America Act; he had received from Her Majesty for that and other important services the decoration of the Companionship of the Bath; he had accompanied Sir George Cartier to London in 1868, and with him, completed the arrangements for the transfer of the North-West. Yet our 'officer' speaks of him as 'A' Mr. William McDougall! If the writer in 'Blackwood' desired to be insulting he, of course, selected the correct style; but if, as in charity we are bound to believe, he knew no better, then there is here another lamentable specimen of ignorance, showing with how little information are some English magazine writers endowed. There is yet no evidence to show that Mr. McDougall's appointment was more 'injudicious' than would have been that of any other public man at the time. It was said that the Indians had a personal objection to him, which was shared in by the French; but nobody believes that he was, personally, the cause of the difficulty. In fact our 'officer' gives so many other causes for the Winnipeg troubles, that one is quite surprised he should have thought it necessary to blame the Government of Canada for the selection of the first Lieutenant-Governor; and it may be that some are uncharitable enough to imagine that his real grievance consists in the fact that the second appointment was not altogether to his liking. Mr. McDougall perpetrated a grave indiscretion in anticipating Imperial action by the issue of his ill-starred proclamation; and for that individual act, performed without the knowledge or consent of the Dominion Government, he has suffered a severe, but wholly self-earned penalty. Beyond that single act there is no reproach to him, nor ought there to be any to the Government, which in good faith, and as a well-deserved reward for acknowledged services, appointed him as first Governor of a territory for the acquisition of which he had so earnestly and successfully laboured. To bring his appointment down to the level of a mere political exigency, as the writer of the 'Narrative' does, is to cast a foul stain upon the honour of Sir John A. Macdonald, the only Canadian statesman for whom he has a respectful word to say. The whole rigmarole in the 'Narrative' on the party composition of the Canadian Ministry is drawn from the narrowest of Canadian partizan sources, and even if true (which it is not), would have been unworthy a place in any decent account of events that took their rise from causes entirely disconnected with political divisions existing in the old Provinces. But the animus of the 'officer' (all honour to his epaulets!) is still further displayed when, after his tiresome explanation about Conservative, Reform, and Coalition, he declares that 'Party politics' 'in Canada must first be attended to; they were of all absorbing importance; and the North-West and its new Lieutenant-Governor must settle their affairs between 'themselves.' Against this wholesale attack upon the Canadian Government, and especially upon Sir John A.

Macdonald and His Excellency the Governor-General, we have simply to point to the correspondence "presented 'to both Houses of (the Imperial) Parliament by command of Her Majesty, August, 1870.'" Had this "officer," who wears Her Majesty's uniform, and whose precious article appeared in December, taken the trouble to refer to Parliamentary papers published three or four months before, he would have seen how far he had wandered from the record.

Space will not permit us to deal fully with this foul slander upon our Dominion, published at the very heart of Empire, where every true Canadian desires that his country's honour should stand high. But we may, for the amusement of those of our readers who have not seen the article, quote the following. Speaking of the excitement in Canada consequent upon the murder of poor Scott, the "officer" says: "The national antipathy between the 'English and French races, stronger in Canada than it 'has ever been at home, and the intense hatred which 'Orangemen, Low Churchmen, Presbyterians, and 'Sec-tarians generally entertain for Popery, were acted upon.' Verily, this certificate of character places the Protestants of Canada under singular obligation to our 'officer' friend! The whole Protestant body save perhaps some 'High' Churchmen not named, are complimented for their 'intense hatred' of Popery; the 'antipathy' between French and English is also 'stronger' than at home—and all this in a country where Frenchman and Briton, old countryman and Canadian, Catholic and Protestant, Jew and Free Thinker, live together on the most amicable terms! We have not been blessed in Canada lately with 'Murphy riots;' the pallings of our public parks do not fall before the mob; our Church benefices, our Civil Service appointments, and the few commissions created by our scanty militia establishment, are not put up for sale. But 'at home,' where Canadians are sneered at, such things take place without even calling up a blush.

One other compliment for Canada we shall quote, and for the present dismiss the "officer of the expeditionary force." He says: "In England we are prone to grumble 'at the misdeeds of Downing Street; but only purity and 'virtue emanates (sic) from that dingy locality when a 'comparison is instituted between the political morality 'of England and that of Canada; and the latter is in its 'turn little short of perfection when judged side by side 'with the corruption pervading every department of 'political and municipal government in the United 'States.'

A very Daniel come to judgment!—There are other statements in the "Narrative," most of them happily of a less personal kind, to which we shall refer in another issue.

FIRE ESCAPES.

To the Editor of the "CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS."

SIR,—Your illustration of the terrible conflagration in Notre Dame Street was more than vivid, it was startling, and conveyed a grave lesson to the community. And yet it would seem to be almost cruel to excite such lively sympathies without doing our best to provide an outlet for their manifestation. It may not be generally known that the descent from a second story window can be made just as safe to the inmates of a burning dwelling, as the passage along the sidewalks of a city to pedestrians. When this shall be fully understood, I think the least the worthy authorities of the city of Montreal could do would be to bring into immediate action the noble system of Fire Escapes, which has been now so long established in London and other great cities of the old world.

Our Editors, we must acknowledge, are generally first in the field of attention and remedy. When they are allowed to be the last also, it is a thing to be lamented. Action, then, is the word in the present case.

Yours,

PRO VITA HUMANA.

LITERARY NOTICES.

DOMINION DIRECTORY, 1871: John Lovell, Montreal.

We have received from the publisher a copy of this truly stupendous work, and from a cursory glance we can see that it is fully all that it was promised to be. On another occasion we shall speak more fully of its merits, and of the enterprise, capital, and skill requisite to its production. In the meantime, we hope that every business man throughout the Provinces will feel it his duty, as it undoubtedly will be to his advantage, to procure a copy.

QUEBEC PROVINCIAL DIRECTORY, 1871: John Lovell, Montreal.

This is one of the six Provincial Directories just issued by Mr. Lovell, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland being included as well as the four Provinces at first constituting the Dominion. The information is most complete, every city, town, village and hamlet being given, with the names of the professional and business men, principal inhabitants, &c., as